THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have sanctioned establishment of three Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) in Himachal Pradesh, *viz.* Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Kangra; Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan; and Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla and five ATICs in Maharashtra, *viz.* Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani; Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola; Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Ratnagiri; Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Ahmednagar; and Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur.

(b) During the last three years, an amount of Rs. 115.21 lakhs and Rs. 185.02 lakhs have been released by the Council to Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, respectively for the purpose.

(c) The Council have already established Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) to impart training to farmers in various districts of the States. During the last one year, 13,082 and 39,088 farmers including farmwomen and rural youths have been trained by the KVKs of Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, respectively.

Improvement of crop insurance policy

1610. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the present crop insurance policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far by the Central Government to improve and strengthen the condition of Indian farmers who provide foodgrains to the country?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A process of review of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been initiated based on the experience and suggestions received from the State Governments. The review proposes the rationalisation of premia rates, limiting the sum insured, continuing 50% premia subsidy to small and marginal farmers, maintenance of State-wise Corpus Fund etc.

(c) Besides the crop insurance, the following programmes are implemented for increasing the production and productivity of crops which in turn would improve the condition of farmers:—

(i) Integrated Development Programme on rice, wheat, cotton, coarse cereals.

(ii) Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses.

(iii) Watershed Development Programme.

(iv) Balanced and integrated use of fertilizers.

(v) Technology Mission for Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern India,

(vi) Making available quality/hybrid seeds.

(vii) Macro Management Scheme.

(viii) Strengthening of extension services.

Conversion of Agricultural Land

611. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to stop large scale agricultural land reclamation for industrial and urban use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of conversion of such lands during the last ten years; and

(d) whether Government would ban such conversion?